

THANK GOD IT'S FRIDAY, PART 1

THE WORD OF FORGIVENESS

Luke 23:32-37

*Accept your acceptance from God, and then forgive others as
Christ forgave you—gracefully and extravagantly.*

Our APPROACH to These Statements—Gospel and Goodness

The good news—each of the seven statements has in it divine grace for us to receive. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)
The good life—each of the seven statements has in it a divine example for us to follow. (1 Peter 2:21)

The ANGUISH of This Prayer—A Touch of Hell on Earth

Crucifixion was designed to be maximally painful; to be crucified was to “die a thousand deaths.”
God forgives his people not by ignoring their sin but by bearing their sin—in the person of his own Son.

The ATTITUDE of This Prayer—A Touch of Heaven on Earth

Jesus does not defend his innocence or curse his enemies; rather, he prays for those who are torturing him.
The removal of our sin was more important to Jesus than the removal of his own suffering on the cross.

The ADDRESS of This Prayer—To the Heavenly Father

The first, fourth, and seventh statements from the cross are prayers from the Son to the Father.
Though immersed in agony, Jesus died believing in the goodness of God despite the wickedness of man.

The APPEAL of This Prayer—Divine Forgiveness for Guilty Sinners

The searing holiness of God demanded an infinite penalty for sin; the inexhaustible grace of God paid it.
If the murder of the Son of God is forgivable, then your sin—whatever it may be—is forgivable, too.

The ARGUMENT of This Prayer—They Just Don't Get It

They don't understand the identity of the one they are killing.
They don't understand the enormity of the crime they are committing.

The ANTICIPATION of This Prayer—The Prophet Foretold It

The fulfillment of Isaiah 53:12 means that God is all-knowing and that the cross is no accident.
The fulfillment of Isaiah 53:12 means that Jesus is still in control and still in possession of his faculties.

The APPLICATION of This Prayer—Living the Way Jesus Died

We tend to attribute other people's faults to their character, and our own faults to our environment.
We are never more like Christ than when we accept God's forgiveness and then forgive other people.